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Party Activities:

Personnel Selection Still Faulty: Central and regional broadcasts are still harping on the "underestimated importance" (nedootsenka vazhnosti) of training and selecting the right personnel for the right jobs. PRAVDA (13 November) counsels moderation in the race for larger Party membership even though the drive for new recruits is an important feature of Communist activity per se. This paper has been inveighing in the past against the "anti-Party practice" of admitting new members en masse, as it were, without due regard for their political or business qualifications which should be the only criteria for eligibility. That the Party cannot afford to relax its vigilance against admitting people of dubious political background is indicated in the case of the Communist organizations of Lithuanian SSR where "unworthy people and even class enemies" (nedostoinie lyudi i dazhe klassovie vragi) were accepted as Party members. A recent Party "aktivist" meeting at the Kaganovitch rayon, Yaroslavl oblast, revealed that even people who compromise themselves "by unbecoming behavior" (nedostoinim povedeniem) are admitted to the Party ranks. Again the race for large numbers of recruits to the Party in disregard of political background and administrative ability is flayed by the editorial as a risky business which is fraught with grave consequences.

Nepotism is referred to as another way of "fouling up" (zasorenje) the Party membership with undesirable elements. As RADYANSKA UKRAINA points out on 14 November, "family ties" (semeistvennost), personal relations and similar irrelevant considerations still go far to determine an applicant's qualifications for Party membership. This has led to the formation of numerous tight little cliques within the Party consisting of

family groups of people who are close to each other in sentiment, members of which are trying to live in peace, not to offend each other and not to wash their laundry in public (ne vysonosy smitya s khaty).

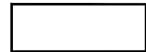
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It is quite obvious, the paper continues, that under such circumstances criticism of shortcomings is not encouraged, and the general tendency is to "gloss over mistakes." In Kulykivs'kiy rayon, Lvov oblast, for example, all the rayon Committee members are said to be related to each other, Party meetings are held "on a low political level" and the entire organizations "reminds one of a quiet haven" (nageduvayye tykhyy zakhist). Similar irregularities are reported to have taken place in Stanislav oblast where the following incident is cited as being typical of many. The Secretary of the Kolomya rayon Party Committee who is said to have "compromised himself" by appointing politically untrustworthy people to executive Party positions was subsequently himself promoted by the oblast Committee to the post of First Secretary of another rayon Party Committee. The Peltava town Communist organization "does not know and does not study its personnel," officials are appointed to responsible jobs and confirmed "without a personal interview" and criticism and self-criticism are virtually unknown there.

ZAKARPATSKAYA PRAVDA (15 November) speaks of "stagnation" (sastiy) of Party activities brought about by politically immature Party members. It was revealed at a recent plenary session of the Ushgorod town Party Committee that the qualitative make-up of the membership leaves much room for political improvement. Neither the full fledged Party members nor the candidates have shown the proper "Marxist tempering," and their general political background is poor. DNIIEPROVSKAYA PRAVDA (15 November) charges that the oblast Party officials' attitude toward the acceptance of new members to the Party borders on the criminal. Applicants for membership are said to be judged entirely by the information they supply in the questionnaires which, incidentally, is never verified. This sort of approach to the processing of prospective Party members, says the paper, invariably leads to the appointment of "unsuitable" (neprigodnie) persons to responsible positions and prevents the acceptance of well-qualified people. Such cases are neither isolated nor accidental, and wherever they occur one is sure to trace the trouble to nepotism and "excessive familiarity" among the Communist officials. It is well known, however, that a number of "town and rayon Party Committees are very slow in eliminating their shortcomings" connected with Communist personnel administration.

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The "narrow departmental approach" (uzko-vedomstvenniy podkhod) to personnel matters should be combatted with "Bolshevik integrity of principle" (bolshevistskaya printsipialnost) which is interpreted as intolerance toward any manifestation of anti-Party and anti-State tendencies plus a healthy respect for criticism, particularly from below (snizu).

Aversion to Criticism Criticized: Fear of criticism and self-criticism, says SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS (13 November), is highly reprehensible but suppression of criticism (zazhim kritiki) is a great evil which will not escape punishment. The Stalingrad Party and Soviet officials, it is claimed, have unfortunately not understood the importance of using criticism as a method of eliminating shortcomings. They in fact pretend to be unaware of the systematic suppression of criticism by their own subordinates. Addressing a Slavyansk rayon Party conference, the former secretary of the rayon Committee is said to have lashed out against everyone "who dared to criticize him or his colleagues" when he was in office. The editorial refers also to a letter published in the same issue complaining about the behavior of the Party boss at the "Vetka" mine whose opposition to any criticism is known to be violent, and expresses the hope that this "unrestrained stifler of criticism" (raspoyasavshiyza zazhimshchik kritiki) will "receive exemplary punishment." Reiterating the latest Party dictum that "he who tolerates shortcomings cannot remain in the ranks of the Party," MOLOT says (14 November) that not all the oblast leaders "have taken it to heart." Persecution and suppression of criticism are said to be evident throughout Rostov oblast, and in many cases the perpetrators of that "great evil" are the ones who "loudly protest their devotion" (gromko zaveryayut svoyu predannost) to Party principles. The head of the Shakhty railroad line, for example, does not even bother to conceal his intolerance of criticism and persists in hounding anyone of his subordinates who as much as refers to a shortcoming in his work.

KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA (16 November) denounces the hostile attitude toward criticism in Crimean oblast in almost identical terms. It is those who usually "shout the loudest about their implicit loyalty to the Party" that are found to indulge in anti-Party activities such as persecuting their critics. It is evident, says the paper, that the value of criticism, particularly from below, is still not realized by the oblast officials, and this is all the more regrettable in view of the fact that people guilty of such un-Bolshevik behavior "cannot count on being trusted by the Party." Just how widespread this anti-criticism sentiment is is cited in the case of the Crimean Academic Construction Scheme (Krym-akadem-stroy) whose chief bookkeeper withheld the salary of the editor for publishing unfavorable criticism in the administration's paper. Neither the chief of the construction enterprise nor the local Party bureau, says the paper, found it necessary to interfere with the arbitrary action of the bookkeeper which was obviously designed to undermine criticism.

Komsomol activities are discussed briefly and familiarly in some regional broadcasts, all of them pointing to one common failing--inadequate proselytizing activities among the youth. A broadcast from Tbilisi of 13 November quotes a Chanturia ZARYA VOSTOKA article as saying that the Republic's Komsomol organizations are still not up to their task of enlightening the nonparty young people, particularly the rural youth. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA (14 November) calls upon the young Communists to intensify their propaganda work "on a larger scale" among the youth and familiarize them with the 19th Congress decisions and other Soviet events of major importance. SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS (14 November) speaks of the "serious shortcomings" recently discovered in the work of the oblast Komsomol organizations. The paper does not specify these shortcomings but merely tells the Komsomols what to do in order to eliminate them. The junior Communists are accordingly urged to "inspire the young people" to greater efforts in their socialist competition and encourage more criticism and self-criticism among them.

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The shortcomings in Komsomol activities, according to NADNEPRYANSKA PRAVDA (15 November), usually fall into the same category as those in the Party. The point of closest resemblance in this respect is the reluctance to check the implementation of decisions already taken. The similarity, however, does not end there. The oblast Komsomol officials, says the paper, "are not maintaining connections with the youth" and seldom visit the primary organizations. This lack of control from above has given rise to the kind of bureaucracy and exclusiveness among local Komsomol officials that are so often criticized as Party weaknesses. The paper even hints that these local Committees, far from trying to recruit new members, actually tend to reduce their membership. At a recent meeting of the Velikoalexandrovka rayon Komsomol organization the oblast Committee was criticized for not knowing what is going on at its subordinate rayon organizations:

... if they knew they would not allow the rayon Komsomol organization to exclude the kolkhoz youth from the Komsomol organization. In the past two years only 182 youths from kolkhozes were accepted by the Komsomol organization.

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Ideological Affairs:

PRAVDA's editorial on literature, art and culture in general (12 November) is echoed by a number of regional transmitters all of which call for greater efforts and better performance in those fields. Their common complaint is that although the 19th Party Congress pointed out the weaknesses of Soviet cultural life and the methods for their elimination, its injunctions frequently remain unheeded. Thus, as PRAVDA points out, "the ideological and artistic level" (ideologicheskiy i khudoshestvennyi uroven) of many current works still remains unsatisfactory, and the "richness" of Soviet life is often portrayed "flabbily and dryly." What the Party demands of all Soviet writers, the editorial says, is "to write the truth" (pisat pravdu), that is to give a true portrayal of the struggle of the old against the new and "the endorsement of the all-conquering ideas of Communism." A RADYANSKA UKRAINA editorial published on the same day bemoans the fact that higher education in the Ukraine is still shot through with serious shortcomings (seryozny nedoliki). The teaching of social sciences is said to be unsatisfactory in many of the Republic's universities, and this at a time when "special attention must be devoted to the education of a Soviet intelligentsia" (osobliva uvaga mae buty zvernena na vykhovannya radyanskoy intelligentsii). The result is that the development of national culture is not as gratifying as the Party would like to see it. The artistic level of the motion pictures is still very low, and this is said to apply also to literature and painting.

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There are still too few publications designed to expose manifestations of bourgeois ideology, particularly Ukrainian bourgeois nationalism and cosmopolitanism. A number of institutes ... have displayed timidity in the matter of formulating and solving theoretical problems.

Ukrainian version:

Malо shche napysano prats, shcho vykryvayut proyavy burzhuaznoi ideologii, nasampered, ukrainskogo burzhuaznogo natsionalizmu i kosmopolityzmu. V ryadi instytutiv ... prosvyavlyatsya boyaskist v postanovtsi i rozrobtsi teoretychnykh problem.

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The paper's inferential admission in this connection is that while most of the Ukrainian writers are reluctant to delve into the risky subtleties of Communist ideology as currently defined, some of them do not hesitate to inject a bit of nationalist sentiment in their publications. Chief among them is L. Smilyanskiy whose recent book "Sad" (the garden) is said to "contain shortcomings of a nationalist nature" (mae pomylki natsionalisticheskogo kharakteru). It is also revealed that the book he published in 1941 "Zoloty vorota" (the golden gate) belongs in the same category. (There is no further reference to the nature of the mentioned shortcomings, however.)

Private-property psychology and other survivals of bourgeois ideology, says IZVESTIA editorially on 12 November, are still with us, and such traits "do not die of themselves" (ne otmirayut sami sobstv). Nor is the situation helped much by "dishonest, unscrupulous and false people" (nechestnie, nedobrosoveshchie i falshivie ludi) of whom there are "not a few" (nemalo) in Soviet society. Defining the three categories of people who do not typify the "Soviet man" as officially conceived, the paper makes the distinction between mediocrity and what might be construed as hostile elements. The acquisitive instincts of some people are expressed in the "malicious violations" of Soviet laws and State discipline with the obvious purpose of giving a little and gaining much. Others just prefer to "sit back and wait for the coming of Communism" (sidiyat i zhdut nastuplenia kommunizma) and at the same time try to acquire from society what they need. Still others are characterized as "simply indifferent" (prosto ravnodushny), who manage to get away with a minimum of work but are neither active nor consistent in their activities. Though apparently innocuous, such "drones" (rotozei), it is claimed, actually "cause damage to the State" (prichinyayut vred gosudarstvu). It is recalled in this connection that in his speech to 19th Party Congress, Malenkov mentioned these people in context of foreign anti-Soviet propaganda referring to them as the "unstable elements" (neustoičivie elementy) of Soviet society. IZVESTIA does not mention the latter classification but also brings in the foreign propaganda angle in its reference to the above defined categories of people:

Nor are we safe from the infiltration into our midst of alien views, ideas and sentiments from the outside, from the capitalist world.

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Russian version:

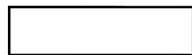
My ne zastrakhovany takzhe ot proniknoveniya k nam chushdykh vsglyadov, idei i nastroyeniy izvne, so storony kapitalisticheskogo mira.

KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (12 November) says that the elimination of the capitalist remnants from the minds of the people is one of the many tasks facing the Republic's educators, scientists and men of letters. This aspect of the ideological struggle, however, "is assuming increasing importance" now during the transition from socialism to Communism. CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA criticizes an unnamed number of Party Committees whose chief preoccupation is administrative rather than Party and ideological work. The Voroshilov rayon Party, for example, has displayed "an intolerable attitude" toward all problems of ideology by simply neglecting them. Local composers and writers do not get the proper indoctrination and their knowledge of Marxism-Leninism is therefore found wanting. In Andreyevskiy and other rayons the independent students of Marxism-Leninism receive practically no ideological guidance from the appropriate Party Committees. Even the lectures they were scheduled to hear have not been delivered during the current year.

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Ideological education is also the object of a STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA editorial discussion of 13 November. The dual purpose of seminars for independent Party students, the paper says, is to facilitate their exchange of opinion, on the one hand, and to give the Party organization an opportunity to control their studies, on the other. But this apparently is not realized in some rayons of Stalingrad oblast where ideological education "is badly organized" (plokho organizovano). In Frolovskiy rayon the students hear lectures only on rare occasions while in Kirovskiy and Traktorozavodskiy rayons the political school and study circle leaders seldom put in their appearance at seminars and similar gatherings.

A Begma article carried by RADYANSKA UKRAINA on 12 November (not broadcast) speaks in disparaging terms of the ideological shortcomings in Kamenets-Podolsk oblast. The author goes as far as to suggest a thorough overhauling of the oblast agitation and propaganda methods, a more serious approach to ideological problems and "a decisive struggle against liberalism" (rishucha borotba z liberalizmom). In Grytsivskiy, Vovkovinetskiy, Shepetivskiy and a number of other rayons the ideological training of Party members and candidates is said to have reached a very low point. Most of the political agitators selected to help the independent students of Marxism have revealed a poor ideological background, incompetence and political immaturity. Evidence of bourgeois-nationalist sentiment in Izmail oblast is contained in a Zekotyanskiy report carried by the paper on the same day (not broadcast). As indicated in a previous CPW report, the Ukrainian spoken in the Kiev-Poltava area was recommended as the standard Ukrainian language to be used eventually throughout the Republic. That this idea is not too popular with some Ukrainians of the recently-annexed western oblasts such as Izmail may be inferred from Zekotyanskiy's criticism of a lecturer who had different ideas on the subject. In his lectures on "northern dialects" (pivnichni dialekti), Ukrainian-language expert Dubinenko is reported to have

insisted on the acceptance of Kulish's anti-scientific nationalist views on that matter, and urged his students to subscribe to the viewpoint of that rabid Ukrainian bourgeois nationalist.

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Ukrainian version:

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nastiyne propaguvav u tsyomu pytannii antynaukovu natsionalistichnu techku zoru Kulisha i vymagav vid studentiv doderchuvaty poglyadiv tsyoga zapoklogo ukrainskogo burzhuaznogo natsionalista.

The local press, says RADYANSKA UKRAINA on 13 November, should not confine itself to the publication of items of local color (tsikavykh i zmistovych storinok)--it must venture into the broader spheres of national economy and politics. Some papers, it is asserted, are paying much too little attention to the monumental decisions of the 19th Party Congress or to Stalin's article on the "Fundamental Economic Law of Socialism" and as a result the people know little about them. Listed as guilty of such lack of interest are PRIKARPATSKA PRAVDA (Stanislav oblast), ZAKARPATSKA PRAVDA (Transcarpathia), CHERVONYI STYAG (Smila) and LENINSKIY SHLIAKH (Bila Tserkva). The subscription campaign for newspapers and periodicals in the rural areas is not going as well as expected and should be intensified, according to KIROVGRADSKA PRAVDA (14 November). "The propagation of the press," says the paper, is an important aspect of propaganda and enlightenment and "should not be left to the fates." In a number of rayons, however, the Party, trade unions and Komsomol organizations appear to "underestimate the importance" of printed matter leaving its distribution to the officials of the communications and printers unions. The situation is said to be worst in Ustynovskiy and Znamenskiy rayons where subscription for and distribution of the local press and periodicals have been left entirely out of account.

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